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Docket No.
524941/0018
LR/DLS/PI

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: **Koichi Toba, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3728**

Application No.: **10/615,136**

Examiner: **Not Yet Known**

Filed: **July 8, 2003**

For: **INK CARTRIDGE AND VACUUM-PACKAGING PRODUCT
CONTAINING THE SAME**

Date: **July 20, 2004**

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
BY "FIRST CLASS MAIL" (37 C.F.R. § 1.8)

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

1. **Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs.)**
2. **Form PTO/SB/08a and b (2 pg.); 5 cited references and Search Report**
3. **Return Postcard**

is being deposited on **July 20, 2004** with the United States Postal Service
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David L. Schaeffer

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(Signature Of Person Mailing Correspondence)



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08a and b).

The cited references were called to Applicants' attention in a Search Report dated June 21, 2004 in European Patent Application 03014594.0, which is a counterpart to the instant case. A copy of that Search Report is also submitted herewith, and the Examiner is respectfully directed thereto for a concise explanation of the relevance of the cited art. Also as a convenience to the Examiner, machine translations into English of the Japanese references have been provided, where available.

Copies of the listed foreign references are enclosed. Copies of the cited U.S. references have not been provided, in accordance with the Notice entitled "Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent

Applications filed after June 30, 2003" set forth at 1276 O.G. 55.¹ The present application, it should be noted, was filed after June 30, 2003, on July 8, 2003.

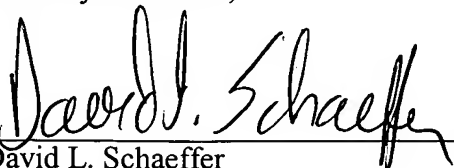
This Information Disclosure Statement is being cited in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), to the best of the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing of an Office Action, and so no fee is believed to be due.

Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, as well as any other fee which may now or hereafter be due, to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant form (PTO/SB/08a and b) be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

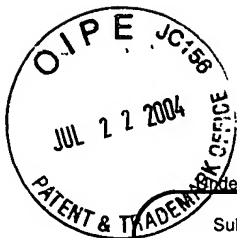
Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
David L. Schaeffer
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Attorney for Applicants
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP
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New York, New York 10038-4982
(212) 806-5400

¹ The relevant portion of that Notice reads:
Waiver

The Office hereby waives the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. patent and each U.S. patent application publication for all U.S. national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and for all international applications that have entered the national stage under 35 USC 371 after June 30, 2003. See 37 CFR 1.491(b). For all patent applications filed on or before June 30, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are still required unless an eIDS is filed.



PTO/SB/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet **1** of **2****Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/615,136
Filing Date	July 8, 2003
First Named Inventor	Koichi Toba, et al.
Art Unit	3728
Examiner Name	Not Yet Known
Attorney Docket Number	524941/0018

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 6,062,390	05-16-2000	Nakamura	
		US-			
		US-			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP 1 199 178 A1	04-24-2002	Seiko Epson Corp.	(English Orig.)	
		JP 04-232069	08-20-1992	Seikosha Co. Ltd	(w/ Eng. Abs.)	
		EP 1 125 747 A2	08-22-2001	Seiko Epson Corp.	(English Orig.)	
		JP 2002-205414	07-23-2002	Seiko Epson Corp.	(w/ Eng. Trans.)	X
		JP 2000-255078	09-19-2000	Seiko Epson Corp.	(w/ Eng. Trans.)	X

Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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